

# Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding CESA #4

March 19, 2018

# Representing CESA #4

- Thank you to Representative Kitchens, Senator Olsen, and members of the Blue Ribbon Commission
- Troy Gunderson – Superintendent for the School District of West Salem
- Cheryl Gullicksrud – Administrator for CESA #4
- Thank you to Dr. Nelson and the School District of La Crosse for hosting this event
- Thank you to the teams from Onalaska and Sparta
- Others

# CESA # 4: 26 Districts

- Geography: Alma – Tomah – De Soto
- Alma – 223 students to La Crosse - 6,755 students
- La Crosse – metro/urban issues
- Holmen, Onalaska, West Salem – suburban
- Black River Falls, Sparta and Tomah – larger, regional centers
- The remaining 19 are small rural school districts much like those spread across the landscape of our state

# CESA #4: Issues

- All Schools
  - Revenue Limit is flawed – Referendum-Based Funding
  - Cost of Health Care
  - Needs of Students and Families
- Rural Schools
  - Declining Enrollment
  - Rural Poverty
  - Property Values versus Income
  - Staffing
  - Facility & Travel Costs
- Key Point: Every situation is different

# CESA #4: By the Numbers

- Total Expenses
  - High: LaFarge, Alma, Wonewoc
  - Low: Tomah, Onalaska, Viroqua
- Education-Related Expenses
  - High: LaFarge, Wonewoc, La Crosse
  - Low: West Salem, Westby, Tomah
- AGI
  - High: Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem
  - Low: LaFarge, Hillsboro, Alma-Center
- Property Value Per Student
  - High: Alma, De Soto, Wonewoc
  - Low: Norwalk, Cashton, Royall

# State Policy Impact

- What works
  - Equalization Aid Formula
- What does not work
  - Revenue Limit
  - Per Pupil Adjustment Aid

# Equalization Aid Formula Works

• <b>Data Point</b>	<b>Onalaska</b>	<b>Sparta</b>
• RL Students	2,888	2,972
• PV p ST	\$651k	\$380k
• PP Cost	\$9,431	\$9,271
• RL	\$30.0m	\$28.4m
• EQA	\$13.7m	\$20.1m
• F10L	\$16.3m	\$8.3m
• Mil Rate	\$9.64	\$8.79
• Exceed	\$2.6m	\$750k
• AGI	\$69k	\$42k

# Equalization Aid Formula Works

• <b>Data Point</b>	<b>Onalaska</b>	<b>Sparta</b>	<b>M-T</b>
• RL Students	2,888	2,972	3,520
• PV p ST	\$651k	\$380k	\$1.37m
• PP Cost	\$9,431	\$9,271	\$10,686
• RL	\$30.0m	\$28.4m	\$37.9m
• EQA	\$13.7m	\$20.1m	\$2.2m
• F10L	\$16.3m	\$8.3m	\$35.7m
• Mil Rate	\$9.64	\$8.79	\$8.06
• Exceed	\$2.6m	\$750k	\$0
• AGI	\$69k	\$42k	\$163k



# Per Pupil Categorical Aid Does Not

• <b>Data Point</b>	<b>Onalaska</b>	<b>Sparta</b>	<b>M-T</b>
• RL Students	2,888	2,972	3,520
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• Exceed	\$2.6m	\$750k	\$0
• AGI	\$69k	\$42k	\$163k
• PPCA	\$1.9m	\$1.9m	\$2.3m

# Revenue Limit is Flawed

- **West Salem Revenue Limit Numbers**

• Year	Rev-Limit	3-Year Ave.
• 12-13	\$15.99m	1760
• 13-14	\$15.95m	1746
• 14-15	\$16.30m	1726
• 15-16	\$16.30m	1704
• 16-17	\$16.10m	1692
• 17-18	\$15.95m	1704
• 18-19	\$16.17m	1720** (Low Rev. Ceiling)

# Moving Forward - Crisis

- Adjustments Needed to Buy Time
  - Low revenue ceiling – increase faster – index to state average
  - Categorical Aid for Special Education
  - Predictable Revenue Limit Changes
  - Transportation Aid
  - Vouchers
  - Per Pupil Aid

# Moving Forward - Strategic

- #1 Create a Wisconsin Vision for Public Education
- “No Time to Lose” – NCSL August 2016
- My Thoughts...
  - Early Childhood
  - High School
  - Secondary/Post-Secondary Connections
  - Health Care Options
  - Teacher Apprenticeships
  - Nostalgia & Taxes
  - Can we have a 20 year impact?